

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: January 8, 2019
Time: 6:31pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Turner, Vice-Chairman McGurn, Selectman Brazie.

Others in attendance were Hannah Shirley(Berkshire Record), LouAnn Harvey, Bobbi Nussbaum, Diane Tatro, MaryAnn Decker, Bob Jacopino, Ken Gogel.

The Board voted unanimously in roll call vote to go into executive session as allowed by MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21, paragraph 3. The Board will return to open session.

The Board returned to open session at 6:46pm.

Joining the meeting at this time in addition to those listed above were Brian Tobin, Ken Knox, Hans Carlson, Steve Cohen, Eileen Vining and Charles Proctor.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the December 11 meeting were accepted with minor corrections.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board discussed with Mount Washington Selectmen Brian Tobin his town's offer to supply broadband service to about 4 homes that are near the Mount Washington Town boarder. The cost is approximately \$4,000 per home and the subscription fee is \$119.95 per month. The Town's will draft an agreement with the details.

Brain reported that he has been in conversations with Egremont's Emergency Management Team regarding the 911 house numbering system in Mount Washington.

CITIZENS TIME:

Charles Proctor announced to the Board that the Congregational Church of South Egremont Board of Directors have voted to donate the church to the Town. The Directors will be submitting a warrant article for Annual Town Meeting asking voters to accept the donation. He was told that the deadline for warrant articles in March 15, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board will seek members for a screening Committee for the Wireless Telecommunication Tower construction proposals which are due on January 18. The Committee will consist of a Board of Health member, Planning Board member, Finance Committee member, Technology Committee member, and a citizen.

The Board voted unanimously to appoint the Technology Committee as the Screening Committee for the Broadband Network proposal that are due January 31, 2019.

The Board has received a letter from Police Chief Erik Josephson informing the Board that he will be leaving when his contract ends on June 30, 2019. Stephen Cohen voiced his opinion about a recent article in the Berkshire Record which quotes the Chief making accusations of corruption, ticket fixing, and crime covering up taking place in Egremont. Vice-Chairman McGurn moved to give notice to Chief Josephson for a disciplinary hearing to be held on Thursday, January 24 at 7pm. The Board voted unanimously to do so. The Board voted to release minutes of executive sessions in which accusations of wire tapping by a police officer were investigated. Vice-Chairman McGurn noted that the Chief had been given notice of several issues the Board had that have not been corrected. Selectmen Brazie noted that a May 1989 town meeting vote required that police coverage in Egremont be by the Egremont Police at all times. The Board appointed a Police Chief Screening Committee to begin the search for a new Police Chief consisting of Bill Tighe, Paul Montgomery, Lucinda Vermeulen, Chuck Ogden, Brian Shaw, Joe Schneider, and Laura Allen.

The Board appointed Juliette Haas to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Advisory Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vice-Chairman McGurn reported on the work regarding Zoning for Age Friendly Housing. Two bylaws proposals are being worked on. One allowing for Accessory Dwelling Units and a South Egremont Village District bylaw. It was suggested that these not be put on the Annual Town Meeting warrant but instead be put on a Special Town Meeting warrant.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The request for proposals for the land lease for affordable housing is final and will be issued soon. The request for bids for the driveway is being drafted.

The Broadband Network proposals are due January 31, 2019.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on January 22 and will meet to review budgets on January 28.

The Unions will be asked if they can meet early in the morning instead of evenings.

BUDGET REVIEW/TOWN MEETING PLANNING:

Deadline for special articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant is Friday, March 15, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.19/jan8

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.